



TUFOIC

NEWSLETTER

1999 in Review

The year past will be remembered for the unidentified percentage of 4.9%, the lowest figure since TUFOIC was formed in 1965. The addition in recent years of computer investigatory tools such as programs that display the Night sky as it would have appeared at the time of a particular sighting, Satellite tracking programs, and the Internet, which is an instant source of up to date Astronomical and Satellite Information, have rendered what may have remained unexplained, into 'case solved'.

Could we explain all of the cases given enough information? Probably not. However, it seems that many sightings that appear in UFO lists elsewhere or that are reported on the Internet could have quite mundane explanations, if one was to delve a little deeper. A good example of a case that in previous years may have been classed as unexplained came from a country town recently. Two witnesses reported a bright light moving towards the north-east sky, losing elevation, then seemingly stopping in the sky. Then it gradually gained elevation before being obscured by cloud. Investigation revealed that the light crossing the sky was the Russian Space Station MIR, which just happened to enter the earth's shadow (and fade from view) alongside the planet Jupiter, which was then

observed by the witnesses as it gradually moved higher into the northern sky. Initially a mystery light, but with information on correct directions and elevations, the case was solved.

With only 5 unexplained cases for the year, there were obviously no discernible patterns. One point of interest was that unlike previous years, only one case came to our attention that had occurred in a previous year.

One is left to ponder if we have now gathered up most of the older sightings that had so far gone unreported.

Tasmanian Statistics 1999

Total Reports	102
Astronomical	47
Aircraft	11
Satellites	20
Meteorological	1
Balloons	7
Other	7
Insufficient Info:	4
Unidentified	5

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The average number of investigations per year since 1965 stands at 95 with an unexplained percentage of 19%. This high figure is somewhat distorted, as many of the cases that occurred some years back, and which have only recently been reported are more likely to be of a higher strangeness level and hence more likely to be classed as Unidentified. The more mundane light in the sky with probable astronomical cause reports are less likely to be reported many years after the event, thus keeping the Unidentified percentages abnormally high.

Last year, Astronomical and satellite explanations accounted for 60% of the year's reports.

Maybe the prize for the year's most unusual report were the flashing blue lights on an irrigation system alongside the Midland Highway.

The year 2000 sees no TUFOIC Annual Report for the first time in 30 years. The Centre has found it difficult in recent years to produce the Report on time. The Centre has now adopted the Australian Ufologist for the publication of our investigations and news. On the downside there has been the increase in fees and a small drop in membership. However, this is far outweighed by our members now receiving a high quality publication each quarter and on a regular basis.

Tasmanian UFO Report Statistics

YEAR	REPORTS	UFO
Pre 1965	121	32
1965	39	13
1966	30	15
1967	14	5
1968	35	8
1969	65	15
1970	46	8
1971	96	23
1972	69	15
1973	135	27
1974	160	57
1975	171	50
1976	192	43
1977	156	39
1978	180	32
1979	153	19
1980	64	12
1981	88	11
1982	62	18
1983	68	12
1984	46	9
1985	89	12
1986	86	12
1987	73	12
1988	108	19
1989	92	11
1990	44	6
1991	47	5
1992	78	15
1993	86	6
1994	93	11
1995	95	16
1996	179	50
1997	109	10
1998	153	23
1999	102	5



Tasmanian Unidentified Reports 1999

January 17th. 01.15am Granton.

The witness was some 1-2 kms north of Granton when noticing four round almost moon-sized shapes just above the water over the river. The witness stopped the car and wound down the window. No sound could be heard from the glowing golden circles. They looked like wheels with glowing spokes and bright patches of light all of which pulsed in unison. The witness continued on towards New Norfolk and lost sight of the circles.

July 5th. 7.40pm. Ross.

The witness turned on an exterior light at an outside shed. Almost at once he noticed to his south something very low beyond trees at a paddock's edge some 200 m distance. It looked like a rectangular structure about the size of a house. It was illuminated by an orange glow. It seemed to have some vapour about it. As he watched for about 10 seconds it seemed to be rising up and tilted at an angle. It just faded out of sight as he watched. He enquired at a nearby house the next day but no other witnesses were located. The sighting location had no unusual marks or traces.

August 12th. 6.10pm. Franklin.

Initial witness sees what is assumed to be a falling star. However, it comes to a halt in the south-east sky at about a 35 degree elevation. The witness calls a friend to come and look at the star-like white light. They both watch it move a short distance north then south. Soon it started to gain elevation moving up towards the area of sky where it first appeared. Near 7pm it had risen to a 70 degree elevation and was lost from sight.

September 17th. 8.10pm. George Town.

A George Town resident reported sighting a number of puzzling lights. "I noticed a bright white light over West Head and thought it looked too bright for a star.

Then I noticed a green and red flashing light about 10 -15 degrees to the right of the bright white light. The flashing light was moving in the direction of the stationary white light. The green and red light seemed to pass through the white light and turned into a white light. Still travelling in the same direction when there was a gap of 25m between the lights, the first white light followed the second light for 3 or 4 seconds. Then they both stopped and went back along the same path to the original position of the first white light. One light then kept going north, the other stopped and returned south along the top of the Asbestos Range".

The lights soon were lost from view, one behind the range, the other travelling north and fading into the distance. Checks on aircraft and astronomical explanations failed to uncover an explanation for the sighting.

December 29th. 1am. Port Arthur.

Witness woke in the early hours and checked out the night sky which proved to be overcast. She was surprised to see a cluster of star-like lights in the north-west sky. The lights seemed to move about in a confined area as they moved left then right as they lost elevation. The witness heard no noise as the lights were in view for about 5 minutes. they were obscured by the roof of the next door house. The lights were seen over a bush covered hillside and there are no other light sources in the area. Investigation found that cloud cover was about the 800m level.

Keith Roberts, TUFOIC Investigations coordinator

Meeting

Thursday March 30th 7.30 PM

Glenorchy Library, Terry Street, Glenorchy.

(Please note the change of venue)

PROGRAM:

- **Details of Recent Tasmanian UFO Sightings.**
Reports and updates on Sightings in Tasmania since the previous meeting.
- **Members Forum and General Discussion.**
Questions, News and Sightings from Members and Guests.
- **Video:**
A compilation of UFOs filmed on videotape from around the world.
Plus a Video taped UFO taken in Southern Tasmania in January.

Family and friends Welcome.

Please Note: The Library closes at 6 PM. The door will be manned until 7:30 PM.
If you arrive after the meeting starts, please Ring the bell to gain entry.

Important information:

All members and visitors are reminded that they enter the premises entirely at their own risk.

The Library does **not** carry Public liability insurance.

As TUFOIC is not an incorporated body, we do not carry Public liability insurance, and advise members and visitors that No responsibility whatsoever will be accepted by TUFOIC for any Injury, damage to or loss of property incurred whilst on the premises.

(This disclaimer is required for TUFOIC to be able to use the Library premises)

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS

TASMANIAN U.F.O. SIGHTINGS CATALOGUE - TASCAT 2000 The complete record of over 650 Tasmanian Unidentified Sightings.	\$3.00
TASMANIAN UFO LANDINGS CATALOGUE - 4th Edition (2000) A compilation of Tasmanian UFOs seen on or near Ground level.	\$3.00
CRESSY DOCUMENT (Updated 2000). The small town of Cressy was the scene of one of the states most significant UFO Sightings.	\$3.00
MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT (Updated 1999) This lonely windswept Lighthouse island, off the southern tip of Tasmania, Has been the scene of many UFO reports.	\$3.00
NORTH-EAST TASMANIA - 1974 DOCUMENT The largest Tasmanian UFO 'flap' occurred in the North-East of the state in 1974.	\$3.00
TASMANIAN UFO ANNUAL REPORT Magazines: 1985-1999 (15 issue set)	\$12.00

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CHINA HAS THE FIRST UFO OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM

UFOs kicked off the New Millennium with the surprise appearance of a daylight disc on New Year's Day.

At about 6:30 a.m. Beijing time on Saturday, January 1, 2000, a silver-gray UFO appeared over the Great Wall of China. As it hovered, it was captured by Cable News network (CNN) TV cameras and broadcasted live in the USA.

Eyewitness M. Lamb was watching the CNN coverage "when CNN showed a shot of the Great Wall of China at sunrise...When they cut to the shot, there was a gray orb floating over the wall. Then it floated to the right, then up. Then they (CNN) cut away from the shot without any explanation of the floating object. It was silver and appeared to float or glide without any means of propulsion." (Email Interview)

"In Pusalu, a patch of struggling corn and bean farms 30

miles (48 kilometers) from Beijing, villagers believe cosmic forces were at play on December 11 (1999)."

"As they tell it, an object the size of a person shimmering with golden light moved slowly up into the sky from the surrounding mountains."

"It was so beautiful, sort of yellow,' villager Wang Cunjiao said. 'It was like someone flying up to heaven.'"

Mrs. Wang told the Chinese media that the mysterious yellow object rose above the red roof of Pusalu's one-story village hall.

The Journal of UFO Research is China's "bimonthly magazine--circulation 400,000--devoted to UFO research. The conservative, state-run media report UFO sightings. UFO buffs claim support from eminent scientists and liaisons with the secretive military, giving their work a scientific sheen of responsibility."

"Some of these sightings are real, some are fake, and with others it's unclear," said Shen Shituan, a real rocket scientist, president of Beijing Aerospace and honorary director of the China UFO Research Association. "All these phenomena are worth researching."

"Research into UFOs will help spur new forms of high-speed travel, unlimited sources of energy and faster-growing crops, claims Sun Shili, president of the government-approved UFO Research Association (membership 50,000)."

(See the Duluth, Minn. USA News-Tribune for January 3, 2000).

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